no major readjustment of the force structure should be made. However, it may be noted that India currently holds the position of the Chief of Operations, which is another key post in the UNOSOM-II.

Indian Mission Vehicle Stoned in Pakistan

2870. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items which appeared in The Times of India on 22nd July, 1994 that Indian Mission Cars had been stoned recently in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent recurrence of this kind; and

(d) whether as a result thereof is any uncertainty about a meeting for the code of conduct for diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are gravely concerned over the incidents of vandalism of vehicles belonging to our missions in Pakistan in the recent period. Government regard this to be a gross violation by Pakistan of accepted norms of diplomatic behaviour as well as of the mutual commitments and obligations under the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. Government have conveyed to the Government of Pakistan its deep regret and disappointment over this matter. Government have also taken up these incidents of breach of the bilateral Code of Conduct on a case-by-case basis with the Pakistan authorities.

Discussion were recently held in New Delhi and Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made of ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussion on this subject.

During the SAARC Ministerial Meeting at Dhaka, on July 31, 1994, Minister of State for External Affiars, Shri R.L. Bhatia, took up this matter with the Pakistan Foreign Minister. It was agreed that the Code of Conduct should be implemented in its entirely and to consider certain specific steps which would contribute towards this process.

Nagpur Passport Office

2871. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of passports issued by the passport office at Nagpur since its inception upto the 1st of August, 1994;

(b) what is the number of applications pending with the passport office Nagpur for the grant of passports on that date;

(c) whether it is a fact that no full time regular passport officer is being posted in this office;

(d) if so, the details about the names, designations and tenure of the passport officers who were posted there during the said period; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of this office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The number of passports issued by the Passport Office, Nagpur upto 1st August, 1994 is 47,431.

(b) The number of applications pending for grant of passports till that period is 694.

(c) An officer of the rank of Superintendent is heading the Passport Office.

(d) The details are as under:

(i) Shri K.S. Krishnamurthy, Passport Officer 25.9.89 to 18.12.89

(ii) Shri G.V. Venkateshwaran, Public Relations Officer 19.12.89 to 16.4.90

(iii) Shri J.R. Ambre, Superintendent 26.11.90 to 25.7.94

(iv) Shri A.K. Sarkar, Superintendent 26.7.94

(e) Various steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of the Passport Office which include inter alia augmentation of staff strength, improving the infrastructure of the officers, regular inspections of the Passport Offices from time to time and implementation of the inspection reports.

Broad-Basing the Central Haj Committee

2872. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of members in the Central Haj Committee, Bombay and the different interests they represent;

(b) whether Government will consider broad basing the Central Haj Committee in view of the decentralisation of Haj flights by giving representation to various States;

(c) whether Government are giving financial assistance to the Haj Committee; if so, what is the total assistance given during 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(d) whether the Haj Committee generated any income; if so, the income of Haj Committee during 1991—94, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Central Haj Committee consists of 19 members of whom six are ex-officio members. The constitution of the Central Haj Committee is provided for under Clause 4(1) of the Haj Committee Act of 1959. The nominated members of the Committee consists of two nominees of the Central Government, three members of Parliament (two from the Lok Sabha and one from the Rajya Sabha), a nominee of the Maharashtra Government, two members of Legislative Assembly and two members of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay. Additionally there are six ex-officio members drawn from the Government Departments of Customs, Port Trust, Mercantile Marine, Police, Municipal Commissioner and Port Health Authority of Bombay. The nominated and ex-officio members co-opt three additional members, two of whom are Shias.

(b) Until the mid-60s, all the pilgrims used to travel by sea from Bombay. With the introduction of air travel and subsequent increase in departure points for the pilgrims travelling by air to include Delhi, Madras and Calcutta besides Bombay, State Haj Committees have been constituted to assist in the organisation of logistics and other matters for pilgrims going from their States. As a result of decentralisation in the arrangements for logistics for the Haj pilgrims, State Haj Committee have also been conducting draw of lots (qurrah) for the selection of pilgrims from their respective State.

Government of India have been contemplating the introduction of fresh legislation to replace the Haj Committee Act of 1959 keeping in view, inter alia, the question of regional representation in the Central Haj Committee and making it broad-based.

(c) Government extends no financial assistance to the Central Haj Committee. Facilities are provided for the Haj pilgrims through organisation of administrative and medical services in Saudi Arabia and concessional sea/air fares are offered to the pilgrims going for Haj under the arrangements made through the Central Haj Committee.

(d) Central Haj Committee collects a pilgrim Pass Fee @ Rs. 100 per pilgrim and a contribution on account of Haj House donation @ Rs. 150 per pilgrim.